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Office of Proceedings

215794

February 7



Hon. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34802, Petition of Pyco Industries, Inc., for Alternative Rail Service over the tracks and facilities of South Plains Switching Ltd.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing on behalf of West Texas & Lubbock Railway Company, Inc. (WTLC) in connection with the above-captioned alternative rail service proceeding.

On January 26, 2006, the Board served a decision authorizing WTLC to provide alternative rail service over the lines of South Plains Switching, Ltd. Co. (SAW) for an initial 30 day period to serve the needs of Petitioner Pyco Industries, Inc. (PYCO). At ordering paragraph 3 of that decision, the Board directed PYCO (we believe it meant to say WTLC) and SAW to promptly enter into protocols that would allow for safe joint operations on this line and to report to the Board that the required protocols are in place.

By this letter, I am advising the Board that the parties have met or talked on several occasions in an attempt to negotiate a mutually satisfactory protocol. Counsel for SAW has prepared the enclosed letter dated February 1, 2006, purporting to represent such a protocol. Initially, WTLC did not sign this document because it had serious reservations about the ability of both WTLC and SAW to serve their respective customers under this protocol. At the urging of the Board's Melvin Clemens, WTLC has now

signed and is now filing the enclosed protocol with the following addendum:

- 1. SAW presented WTLC with an ultimatum Thursday. WTLC proposed one change and that was not considered.
- 2. In order to provide service to all customers, WTLC believes the following need to be added:
- a. Track 9200 will be used for storage of inbound empties for PYCO. This will maintain the capacity available for handling PYCO empties that was in effect before Feb. 1. WTLC will have the right to switch cars as necessary on both tracks 9200 and 9298 to facilitate handling of PYCO empties and access to PYCO Plant 2.
- b. The protocol clearly authorizes WTLC to make use of the route (track numbers unknown) between tracks 9200/9298 and Plant 2, irrespective of any questions of ownership or control of tracks on this route.
- c. WTLC will have the right to operate after 7pm or before 7am.

Please contact me if you have any questions

Sincerely yours,

John D. Heffner

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Melvin Clemens (by fax)

Charles Montange, Esq. Thomas McFarland, Esq.

Mr. Steve Gregory Mr. Edwin Ellis